

PERS: Pearson, Drew  
Cuba

→ ORG 1: OAS

## **The Washington Merry-Go-Round**

*By Drew Pearson*

### **Crackdown on Castro**

President Johnson was attending the reception for Latin American Foreign Ministers debating the question of tough sanctions against Cuba. Ambassador Vicente Sanchez Gavito, the charming Mexican envoy to the OAS, accosted him.

"You want to close our poor little Embassy in Havana," wailed Sanchez Gavito. "You want to take our tiny little planes away and stop them flying to Cuba."

President Johnson patted the Ambassador on the back, ignored his remarks.

What the Mexican envoy to the OAS didn't reveal was that his sister works in the Mexican Embassy in Havana and has been very friendly to Cuban Communists. Sanchez Gavito has been the No. 1 hold-out inside the Organization of American States against taking real sanctions against Fidel Castro. He not only has

voted against Venezuela's move to sever trade and diplomatic relations, but has been eloquent in trying to persuade other Latin American nations to avoid sanctions.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk put the bee on Mexico, however, when he reminded Pan American delegates that Mexico had voted for breaking diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic when it was proved that dictator Trujillo had tried to assassinate President Betancourt of Venezuela. But now, Rusk said, Mexico doesn't want to censure Cuba for trying to assassinate democracy in Venezuela.

NOTE—Toughest countries for a crackdown on Cuba were those closest to it, namely the republics of Central America and the Caribbean. They have suffered from Castro's attempted subversion or else watched it take place with their neighbors.